

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Request for Reconsideration is responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 1, 2004.

In this Amendment, claims 1-23 are rejected as being obvious over Tan et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0074147) in view of Shrier et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0050912) and Takeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,271). Applicants traverse this rejection.

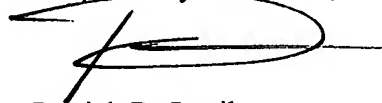
Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 which was submitted in parent U.S. patent application no. 09/855,820. As noted therein, Tan et al. has a U.S. filing date of December 15, 2000. The Exhibits attached to the Declaration clearly show that embodiments of the invention were reduced to practice prior to December 15, 2000, the U.S. filing date of Tan et al. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Tan et al. is not prior art to the present claims and withdraw of the rejection based on Tan et al. is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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